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C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 9776
E.O. 12065: GDS 11/2/85 (TOWELL, TIMOTHY L.) OR-M
TAGS: PEPR, PORG, UQ, CU, US
SUBJECT: (C) FIDEL CASTRO DECORATES PUERTO RICAN NATIONALISTS
1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT.)
2. CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO DECORATED RELEASED PUERTO RICAN NATIONALISTS LOLITA LEBRUN, RAFAEL CANCEL MIRANDA, IRVING FLORES, AND OSCAR GOLLAZO (AS WELL AS, POSTHUMOUSLY, ANDRES FIGUEROS CORDERO) WITH TWO OF CUBA'S HIGHEST MEDALS, NOVEMBER 1. AT PUBLIC CEREMONY, GIVEN FULL CUBAN MEDIA TREATMENT, COLLAZO, SPEAKING FOR THE PUERTO RICANS, THANKED FIDEL FOR THE HONORS AND FOR CUBAN SUPPORT FOR PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE, CITING INJUSTICE OF 450 YEARS OF SLAVERY - FIRST UNDER SPAIN AND NOW UNDER THE EMPIRE OF THE UNITED STATES." CUBAN COMMUNIST PARTY POLITBURO MEMBER JUAN ALMEIDA, NOT TO BE OUTDONE IN RHETORIC, TOLD THE FOUR PUERTO RICANS: "YOU HAVE SUFFERED WITH YOUR OWN FLESH THE RIGORS OF IMPERIALISM AND COLONIALISM AND TOOK ON YOUR OWN SHOULDERS THE PAIN OF THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PUERTO RICAN PATRIOTS WHO ARE OPPRESSED AND EXPLOITED."
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3. THE PUERTO RICAN NATIONALISTS, WHO ARE, OF COURSE, HERE AS GUESTS OF THE GOC, ARRIVED NOVEMBER 1 FROM JAMAICA. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON THEIR LENGTH OF STAY.
TOWELL
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY DZ DATE 3 MAR 1982
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